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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/773,704	02/06/2004	Armin Diez	HOG610C	8289
7590 Edward J. Timmer P.O. Box 770 Richland, MI 49083-0770		02/14/2007	EXAMINER LEE, GILBERT Y	
			ART UNIT 3673	PAPER NUMBER
SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE		MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE	
3 MONTHS		02/14/2007	PAPER	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/773,704	DIEZ ET AL.	
	Examiner Gilbert Y. Lee	Art Unit 3673	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 December 2006.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 24, 26 and 27 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 24, 26 and 27 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>12/4/06</u> . | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

1. Claims 24, 26, and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miyaoh (US Patent No. 5,961,126) in view of Ishikawa et al. (US Patent No. 5,427,389).

Regarding claim 24, the Miyaoh reference discloses a cylinder head gasket (Fig. 3) with a gasket plate (e.g. A10, A11, and A12) being metallic (Col. 2, Lines 43-48), said gasket plate comprising at least one sheet metal layer (A12) and having several combustion chamber openings (Hc), each of said combustion chamber openings being surrounded by at least one first bead (A16) and having a spring rate so as to be elastically deformable in height (Col. 3, Lines 58 and 59), wherein for delimiting the elastic deformation of said first bead at least one delimiting device (A12a) is associated with each of the said first beads, surrounding the respective combustion chamber opening and being obtained by deformation of a sheet metal layer of said gasket plate (Fig. 3) such that

- (a) said delimiting device is formed by at least one second bead of said deformed sheet metal layer (Fig. 3), said second bead having a spring rate (Col. 3, Lines 54-58);

- (b) all around the respective combustion chamber opening the spring rate of the second bead being greater than the spring rate of the associated first bead when measured perpendicularly to said gasket plate (Note that this is inherent because the height of the second bead is smaller than the height of the first bead while being made of the same material);
- (c) in plan view of said gasket plate, the second bead is disposed between the associated combustion chamber opening and the associated first bead (Fig. 3);
- (d) the height of the second bead being selected so as to allow an elastic deformation of the associated first bead (Fig. 3); and
- (e) in a plan view of the deformed sheet metal layer, the total area occupied by the second bead is at least equal to half of the total area occupied by said delimiting device (Fig. 3).

However, the Miyaoh reference fails to explicitly disclose in a plan view of said deformed sheet metal layer, surrounding the associated combustion chamber opening substantially completely and forming over at least part of the length of said second bead a substantially complete meander extending in a circumferential direction of said combustion chamber opening.

The Ishikawa et al. reference, a metal laminate gasket, discloses that a bead can be made to meander in a plan view (Col. 4, Lines 7-12).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to provide a meandering bead to the Miyaoh reference in order to widely cover the lateral side portions (Ishikawa et al., Col. 2, Lines 33-36).

Regarding claim 26, the Miyaoh reference, as modified in claim 24, discloses the thickness of a portion of said layer formed the second being substantially the same as a thickness of the material of the deformed layer adjacent the second bead (Fig. 3).

Regarding claim 27, the Miyaoh reference, as modified in claim 24, discloses the height of the second bead being selected such that when the gasket is tightened, the first bead is initially compressed without compression of the second bead (Fig. 3).

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments filed 12/4/06 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

In response to applicant's argument that the references fail to show certain features of applicant's invention, it is noted that the features upon which applicant relies (i.e., each of the combustion chamber openings having at least one first bead; the claims only requires "each of said combustion chamber openings being surrounded by at least one first bead", which is met by bead A16) are not recited in the rejected claim(s). Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993).

With regards to the applicant's argument of the bead, A16, not being able to protect the first combustion chamber opening beads A12a, the argument is not found persuasive because, as clearly shown in Figs. 2 and 3, bead A16 is at a different height than bead A12a. Having this structure will put a higher amount of stress on bead A16

than on A12a when being installed, therefore protecting bead A12a. The applicant also argues that peripheral bead A15, A16 are not disposed close enough to the fist beads A12a to provide a stopper function. However, as noted above, the bead A16 will have a higher amount of stress when being installed than bead A12a and will act as a stopper to stop the bead A12a from receiving too much stress.

With regards to the Ishikawa et al. reference, the arguments are not persuasive because the reference was used only to teach that a bead at the periphery of a gasket can be either straight beads or beads with meanders.

Conclusion

3. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

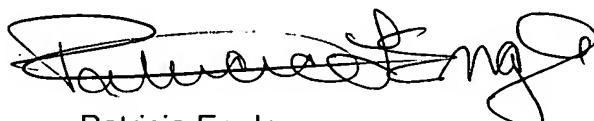
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gilbert Y. Lee whose telephone number is 571-272-5894. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 - 4:30, M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Patricia L. Engle can be reached on (571)272-6660. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

GL
February 10, 2007.



Patricia Engle
Supervisory Examiner
Tech. Center 3600